

Appendix 3.4 Kentucky's prioritized taxa-specific conservation actions.
Conservation actions are listed in order of importance within the identified objectives.

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

Class AMPHIBIA

1. Protect, restore, increase, improve, and manage special/unique high value habitats (i.e.; mossy pond margins; shaded cliffs with damp crevices; etc.) that are imbedded within or associated with more general suitable habitat types for priority amphibians

- Identify unique microhabitats important to priority species and acquire or protect through acquisition, easements, or cost-share programs. (Conservation Action # 97)
- Acquire, protect, or improve habitat for isolated populations or those with low population densities through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 120)
- Encourage landowners to incorporate strategies into management plans that benefit priority species during technical guidance sessions. (Conservation Action # 107)
- Create new microhabitats on Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources owned or managed lands that benefit priority species. (Conservation Action # 99)
- Encourage practices that increase structural and vegetative diversity that benefit priority species. (Conservation Action # 14)
- Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to reduce impacts from stochastic events. (Conservation Action # 156)
- Create education program about the importance of unique microhabitats. (Conservation Action # 100)
- Create a unique habitat stewardship program. (Conservation Action # 103)
- Partner with appropriate agencies to promote construction or restoration of wetland habitat. (Conservation Action # 184)
- Acquire and protect wetland habitat and manage for priority species (manage for prey species, breeding and cover habitat, etc.). (Conservation Action # 138)

2. Improve the process for gathering, storing, utilizing, and sharing data on the distribution, population size, natural history, and management of priority amphibian species.

- Improve the data sharing to enhance database information quality (Conservation Action # 182)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class AMPHIBIA

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

3. Reduce, reverse, and/or mitigate the adverse effects of current and past mineral extraction activities on priority reptile and amphibian species and their habitats in the coalfield regions.

- Create innovative methods to better use Fees-in-lieu-of money (or other programs) for permanent protection/restoration of streams and riparian corridors (purchase surface and mineral rights) (Conservation Action # 50)
- Partner with the Office of Surface Mining to develop regulations that increase the use of wildlife friendly reclamation practices and provide incentives to the industry for doing so. (Conservation Action # 44)
- Partner with the appropriate agency to develop new habitat restoration and enhancement projects using abandoned mine lands funding. (Conservation Action # 47)
- Partner with the coal-mining industry to establish Wildlife Management Areas on company lands and implement management plans for priority species. (Conservation Action # 49)
- Provide information and guidance to the mining industry and contractors on reclamation practices that benefit wildlife. (Conservation Action # 51)

4. Reduce, reverse, and/or mitigate the adverse effects of other various human activities on priority amphibian species and their habitat(s).

- Partner with the KY State Foresters Association and the KY Division of Forestry to provide recommendations on management practices that benefit wildlife. (Conservation Action # 58)
 - Work with partners to prioritize land protection, acquisition, and restoration projects that work toward connecting blocks of habitat and restoring ecological processes. (Conservation Action # 80)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class AVES

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

Class AVES

1. Increase and protect available habitat for priority species

- Acquire, protect, or improve habitat critical for spawning, nesting, or breeding through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 129)
- Work with other agencies and landowners to protect critical habitats from human disturbance through acquisition, easements, gates, buoys, etc. (Conservation Action # 147)
- Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to reduce impacts from stochastic events. (Conservation Action # 156)
- Acquire, protect, or improve habitat for isolated populations or those with low population densities through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 120)
- Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects (e.g., providing nest boxes, cavity trees, cavity restrictors, high-quality habitat) on private and public lands to reduce competition. (Conservation Action # 118)
- Identify specific locations where overlap of species and potential hybridization may occur. Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to reduce likelihood of hybridization. (Conservation Action # 119)
- Focus cost-share programs to mitigate impacts to or create new spawning, nesting, or breeding habitat for priority species. (Conservation Action # 126)

2. Decrease disturbance and mortality to priority species

- Review, revise, and develop new regulations to protect species from human disturbance. (Conservation Action # 148)
 - Work with industry and agencies to decrease impacts of man-made structures (communication towers, wind towers, buildings, powerlines, etc.) through use of wildlife-friendly structures and practices. (Conservation Action # 142)
 - Work with Law Enforcement partners to establish better programs to apprehend violators of illegal shooting. (Conservation Action # 152)
 - Identify specific location where predation is adversely affecting a species at risk and develop a management plan for that site. (Conservation Action # 116)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class AVES

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

3. Increase public awareness of conservation issues for priority species

- Create education programs about the negative impacts of domestic pets or exotic species (e.g., American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors" program). (Conservation Action # 114)
- Create education programs on proper identification of priority species (e.g., differences between Whooping Crane and Snow Goose, Rails and Snipe, etc.) to decrease impacts from hunting. (Conservation Action # 135)
- Information & Education campaign to alert public about potential signs of diseased animals (Conservation Action # 132)
- Create education programs to inform the public about the potential impacts of human disturbance to priority species (create signs, presentations, brochures, etc.). (Conservation Action # 146)
- Information & Education public, schools, etc. on regulations protecting impacted species from illegal killing. (Conservation Action # 151)
- Information & Education to inform public on potential impacts of certain man-made structures (Conservation Action # 144)

4. Conserve priority species and habitats outside of Kentucky

- Work with national/international partners to protect or enhance important habitats outside of Kentucky and/or the United States. (Conservation Action # 33)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class MAMMALIA

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

Class MAMMALIA

1. Increase and protect available habitat for priority species
 - Acquire, protect, or improve habitat for isolated populations or those with low population densities through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 120)
 - Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to reduce impacts from stochastic events. (Conservation Action # 156)
 - Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects (e.g., providing nest boxes, cavity trees, cavity restrictors, high-quality habitat) on private and public lands to reduce competition. (Conservation Action # 118)
 2. Decrease disturbance and mortality to priority species
 - Survey abandoned mines in and around portals to determine the use and importance of an area for bat conservation prior to mine closure (on and off permit area). (Conservation Action # 53)
 3. Increase public awareness of conservation issues for priority species
 - Information & Education public, schools, etc. on regulations protecting impacted species from illegal killing. (Conservation Action # 151)
 - Information & Education public about identification of protected and/or species sensitive to overharvest, and the impacts of overharvest on native wildlife (Conservation Action # 123)
 - Information & Education campaign to alert public about potential signs of diseased animals (Conservation Action # 132)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class REPTILIA

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

Class REPTILIA

1. Protect, restore, increase, improve, and manage high value habitats (i.e. cedar glades, open rocky areas; turtle nesting sites; sinkhole swamps; etc.) that are imbedded within or associated with more general suitable habitat types for priority reptiles.

- Acquire, protect, or improve habitat for isolated populations or those with low population densities through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 120)
- Identify unique microhabitats important to priority species and acquire or protect through acquisition, easements, or cost-share programs. (Conservation Action # 97)
- Maintain unique microhabitats by retarding succession or invasion of certain plant species where applicable. (Conservation Action # 101)
- Acquire, protect, or improve habitat critical for spawning, nesting, or breeding through habitat improvement projects, land acquisitions, and easements. (Conservation Action # 129)
- Implement species-specific habitat improvement projects on private and public lands to reduce impacts from stochastic events. (Conservation Action # 156)
- Work with partners to prioritize land protection, acquisition, and restoration projects that work toward connecting blocks of habitat and restoring ecological processes. (Conservation Action # 80)
- Create new microhabitats on Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources owned or managed lands that benefit priority species. (Conservation Action # 99)
- Encourage landowners to incorporate strategies into management plans that benefit priority species during technical guidance sessions. (Conservation Action # 107)
- Create a unique habitat stewardship program. (Conservation Action # 103)
- Work with partners to identify open lands that should not be reforested and maintain priority areas as grassland or early successional habitat. (Conservation Action # 63)

2. Improve the process for gathering, storing, utilizing, and sharing data on the distribution, population size, natural history, and management of priority amphibian species.

- Improve the data sharing to enhance database information quality (Conservation Action # 182)
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Appendix 3.4 Continued. Class REPTILIA

Objective

Conservation actions to meet the objectives.

3. Reduce, reverse, and/or mitigate the adverse effects of other various human activities on priority reptile species and their habitat(s).

- Acquire and protect wetland habitat and manage for priority species (manage for prey species, breeding and cover habitat, etc.). (Conservation Action # 138)
- Work with the KY Department of Transportation (DOT) and other agencies to incorporate wildlife friendly features (incorporate overpasses, signs, road barriers etc.) into construction and maintenance projects to decrease impacts to wildlife. (Conservation Action # 41)
- Identify and prioritize high ecological value areas most at risk to urban sprawl and protect from development through acquisition or conservation easements. (Conservation Action # 20)
- Partner with the KY State Foresters Association and the KY Division of Forestry to provide recommendations on management practices that benefit wildlife. (Conservation Action # 58)
- Provide technical guidance to public agencies and private landowners on how to restore fire regimes. (Conservation Action # 88)
- Create fire-teams to implement large-scale fire management programs on private lands. (Conservation Action # 90)
- Partner with appropriate agencies to promote construction or restoration of wetland habitat. (Conservation Action # 184)
- Work with Law Enforcement partners to establish better programs to apprehend violators of illegal shooting. (Conservation Action # 152)

4. Reduce, reverse, and/or mitigate the adverse effects of current and past mineral extraction activities on priority reptile species and their habitats in the coalfield regions.

- Partner with the appropriate agency to develop new habitat restoration and enhancement projects using abandoned mine lands funding. (Conservation Action # 47)
 - Partner with the coal-mining industry to establish Wildlife Management Areas on company lands and implement management plans for priority species. (Conservation Action # 49)
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